

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled. Amended claims 1, 3, and 5, and new claims 6-8 are in this application.

Claims 1, 3, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 02/078388 A2 (Bienek et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,815,578 (Foster).

Amended independent claim 1 now recites in part the following:

"focusing reflective sounds outputted from one or more of the speakers of the speaker array to a plurality of locations each corresponding to a respective listener inside a sound field after being reflected by a wall surface of the closed space with a sound pressure greater than a sound pressure at a peripheral location in the closed space." (Emphasis added.)

The above-identified features of claim 1 are believed to be described in the present application. As an example, reference is made to lines 14-23 of page 14 and Fig. 8 of the present application.

Thus, in claim 1, reflective sounds are focused at a plurality of locations each corresponding to a respective listener inside a sound field.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Bienek and Foster applied by the Examiner does not appear to disclose the above-identified features now recited in claim 1. That is, in explaining the above 103 rejection with regard to claim 1, the Examiner appears to rely on Bienek (and, in particular, pages 21-22 and Fig. 7C thereof) to disclose the focusing reflective sounds. In response, although such portions of Bienek appear to mention focusing sound at "point P," such

portions of Bienek do not appear to disclose focusing sound at a plurality of locations. (See line 17 of page 21 of Bienek.)

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as presented herein is distinguishable from the combination of Bienek and Foster applied by the Examiner.

For reasons similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 3 and 5 are also distinguishable from the combination of Bienek and Foster applied by the Examiner.

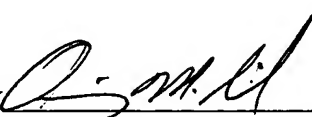
New dependent claims 6-8 have been added herein. It is believed that the present application provides support for the features in these new claims. With regard thereto and as an example, reference is made to lines 18-26 of page 15 of the present application.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional rejections and/or objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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